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## ***FESTUCA VIVIPARA*** **VIVIPAROUS FESCUE**

Viviparous Fescue is a perennial that forms small tufts of leaves and stems which are up to 20 cm high. The leaves are ca. 1 mm wide with inrolled margins, and the ligule is less than 0.5 mm long. Foliage is glabrous. Each spikelet consists of a pair of glumes that are ca. 3 mm long and of 3-5 sterile lemmas that enfold a small plant arising from a vegetative bulbil, shaped like a long-necked vase. Spikelets are borne on short, ascending stalks in a dense, unbranched inflorescence. Mature fruit in late July-August.

The bulbil-bearing spikelet is distinctive among species of *FESTUCA*.